

## **Editor's Comments**

This special issue of THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE presents principled and practical information to help physicians and other health care professionals, patients, and families through a passage that we would like to be gentle but that is often stormy. The special editors and authors address end-of-life topics ranging from symptom management to family support, from babies to elders, from prognosis to futility, from ethics to culture to religion, from tempering suffering to balancing economic and clinical demands. Drs Christine Cassel and Gilbert Omenn took meticulous care when selecting authors. Their inspiration and the sum of their intensive work shines in the finished papers. We believe these efforts bring new skills and perspectives, new light and hope.

LINDA HAWES CLEVER, MD Editor